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TO: Kansas media outlets

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**KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS RECEIVING PHONE CARDS  
COMPLIMENTS OF BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF KANSAS**

Calling home this holiday season will be a little easier for members of the Kansas National Guard who are deployed overseas. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is sending a holiday gift of an AT&T international phone card to each of the more than 1,200 Kansans deployed in Iraq, Kuwait and several other overseas locations.

Each card should give a Guard member approximately 40 minutes of call time to the United States.

Michael M. Mattox, president/CEO, explained that the company was looking for a unique way to show its support for members of the Guard and their families.

“We wanted to show that we support our military families and the sacrifices that they are making for us,” he said. “The holidays can be a particularly challenging time of the year to be away from those you love so we hope these phone cards will make it easier for our troops overseas to connect with their families here at home in Kansas.”

“I know how much it means to our men and women from the Kansas National Guard to be able to talk to someone from home,” said Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general of Kansas. “Thanks to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, our soldiers and airmen will get one of the best gifts of all – the chance to say hello to their families. These phone cards are a most welcome gift this Christmas season.”

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. BCBSKS is the state’s largest health insurer, serving all Kansas counties except Johnson and Wyandotte.